

Rural Proofing Questions – Committee Report Guidance

Will the policy or service :

- Make access more difficult or expensive for people in rural areas – for example by consolidation or centralising providers or removing them from rural outlets?.
- Impact on the transport provision available to the rural people that you are trying to reach?.
- Rely on infrastructure for delivery (Broadband, ICT, road network, utilities)?
- Have a negative effect on rural businesses and communities such as agriculture, land based sector, small businesses, self employed, part-time or seasonal workers and the low paid and disadvantaged?
- Does it depend on new building or development of sites which may be difficult to find in rural areas?
- Impact on the natural and farmed landscape, the communities that rely on them and those using the countryside for recreation?

If you have answered yes to any of the above:

1. Identify where the proposed policy is likely to have a different impact in rural areas.
2. Where there is uncertainty or a negative impact this should be investigated further.
3. Where impact in rural areas is different, explore options to avoid or mitigate undesirable impacts.